

Combatting Graffiti

Graffiti Model Ordinance Adopted by Many Valley Communities

Graffiti is a crime—not artwork.

That's the message that seven communities have embraced as they adopted local ordinances patterned after the Maricopa Association of Governments' aggressive anti-graffiti plan.

The cities of Phoenix, Tolleson, Tempe, Gilbert, Paradise Valley, El Mirage and Glendale all have voted to adopt graffiti laws, and several other cities currently are considering similar action.

Phoenix was an early leader in the anti-graffiti effort, adopting a policy prohibiting graffiti in August, 1995. The city's program and other efforts from throughout the country were the basis for the MAG model ordinance.

Phoenix' ordinance included a clause calling for stores to keep spray paint and broad tip markers under limited access, making it as difficult as possible for youth to steal the items for their use in graffiti.



Gerald Abmont is helping to wipe out graffiti in the Valley.

"The more we can do to get rid of graffiti, the more we can reduce crime to the community, reduce vandalism and reduce the cost to the city to eliminate it," said Gerald Abmont, a Phoenix neighborhood activist who has actively campaigned for passage of the ordinances in Valley communities. "If we could get all our communities on board, we could reduce graffiti all over the Valley."

Abmont has been a graffiti-buster in his westside neighborhood,

Heatherbrae, since 1993, at first taking personal responsibility for cleaning up one square mile and extending that area until today he covers a regular route of more than 60 square miles.

It's that kind of personal commitment that will make graffiti-fighting effective throughout the Valley, according to the Graffiti Working Group that recommended the model ordinance to MAG's Regional Council last year.

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From the Chair



Glendale Mayor,
Elaine M. Scruggs

Positive change, increased public outreach and heightened regional cooperation have been the hallmarks of the last two years for the Maricopa Association of Governments. As chair of the Regional Council during that time, I have had a front-row seat and active participation in it all, and I leave the chair's position sure that we are well on our way towards the open, inclusive organization we want to be.

All of the improvements in MAG over the last two years have enabled us to pursue an aggressive regional agenda, and position the organization for an enhanced and critically important leadership role. In a recent retreat, the local elected officials who serve on the Regional Council set a continuing agenda for openness and identified a number of specific areas to focus on. The focus for the future includes:

1. Communications

The Regional Council committed to improve the knowledge, awareness and understanding of MAG with the public, state legislature, and the member agencies, especially the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors.

2. Programs


The Regional Council members also expressed their commitment to several vitally important programs. These include developing an outstanding and effective vision for the year 2025, preserving desert open space, completing the freeway system and further enhancing all modes of our transportation system and working in partnership with state officials to improve air quality.

In addition, the formation of the MAG Information Center (MAGIC) will make existing data and information collected in conjunction with member agencies more widely available, expand services to both member agencies and the community, serve diverse audiences and help generate additional funding.

3. Decision-Making Process

The Regional Council members are committed to an active role in establishing direction on major policy issues. They want an informal early dialog of Regional Council members on major issues. The Council is also interested in having a more active role in the MAG budget development; enhancing the knowledge of the Regional Council members; improving the efficiency and effectiveness of the committee structure; making the most productive use of the Regional Council meetings, and enhancing the public involvement process.

I encourage each and every one of you to get involved in your region. Like a choir, everyone brings their personal variations and diversity to the group: every voice counts.

I look forward to continuing to be a part of this important regional effort to meet our challenges. 

REGIONAL council members

◆ Mayor Elaine M. Scruggs	Glendale, <i>Chair</i>
◆ Mayor Neil Giuliano	Tempe, <i>Vice Chair</i>
◆ Mayor Skip Rimsza	Phoenix, <i>Treasurer</i>
Mayor Thomas Morales	Avondale
Mayor J. "Mike" Baker	Buckeye
Vice Mayor Hugh Stevens	Carefree
Mayor Tom Aughterton	Cave Creek
◆ Mayor Jay Tibshraeny	Chandler
Mayor Maggie Reese	El Mirage
Mayor Jerold Miles	Fountain Hills
Mayor Chuck Turner	Gila Bend
Governor Mary Thomas	Gila River Indian Community
Mayor Cynthia Dunham	Gilbert
Mayor William Arnold	Goodyear
Mayor Frances Osuna	Guadalupe
Mayor Richard Vasiloff	Litchfield Park
Supervisor Jan Brewer	Maricopa County
Mayor Wayne Brown	Mesa
Councilmember Sara Moya	Paradise Valley
Mayor John Keegan	Peoria
Mayor Mark Schnepf	Queen Creek
President Ivan Makil	Salt River Pima-Maricopa Indian Community
Mayor Sam Kathryn Campana	Scottsdale
Mayor Joan Shafer	Surprise
Mayor Adolfo Gamez	Tolleson
◆ Mayor Dallas Gant	Wickenburg
Mayor William Kosanovich	Youngtown
F. Rockne Arnett	Arizona Department of Transportation
Charles Coughlin	Citizens Transportation Oversight Committee
◆ Executive Committee Members	

MAGAZine

MAGAZine is a quarterly newsletter of the Maricopa Association of Governments addressing the issues and concerns of the cities, towns and tribal communities of Maricopa County. If you know of a friend or colleague who would like to receive MAGAZine, please call the MAG office, 254-6300.

Elaine M. Scruggs
Mayor of Glendale
Chairman

James M. Bourey
Executive Director

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Graphic Design



Regional Council Retreat Dialog Focuses on 1998 Agenda

The Maricopa Association of Governments is a diverse region comprised of small and large communities with multiple, complex needs," said Mayor Elaine M. Scruggs, Chairman of the Regional Council, as she and the Regional Council began a full-day retreat to discuss the priorities for the next year.

Among the regional issues the council members identified as being of high interest to all members of MAG: Open space preservation, quality of life and education funding as well as the more traditional transportation needs, air quality, and environmental planning.

"It brought the mayors together—no matter what size their community is," said Youngtown Mayor William Kosanovich. "We found out that we share a lot of the same problems. I hope MAG continues to do this in the future."

Phoenix Mayor Skip Rimsza agreed: "It was a great opportunity for us all to share our concerns and hopes for the future."

The January retreat also resulted in a commitment from the Regional Council to continue to work to improve communications internally and externally. That outreach effort will include better communication with members of the Arizona Legislature, the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors, member agencies and communities. The Council also committed to work to expand the use of MAG data with member agencies and the community and increase their involvement and understanding of the MAG budgeting process.

When Maricopa County Supervisor Jan Brewer

retreat, she planned on staying a couple of hours. Her plans soon changed. She became so intrigued that the former Arizona state legislator ended up staying the whole day for the retreat. Supervisor Brewer is the County's representative on the Regional Council.




"I had been in the legislature and I thought I knew all about MAG, but I really didn't know what it was all about," she said later. "It's amazing—MAG does so many different things I didn't know about. When I thought about MAG, I only thought about transportation."

Instead, she learned, MAG planned and implemented the region's 9-1-1 emergency telephone system, serves as the official water quality planning agency for Maricopa County, and has responsibilities for planning in a variety of other areas, including regional aviation, regional air quality, public works construction and human services needs.

Supervisor Brewer said the retreat provided her so much information she volunteered to work to get the Regional Council Executive Committee together with members of the Maricopa County Board of Supervisors so "they can get the kind of insight I got."

"I was very impressed that MAG was so organized and structured and professional," she said. "I hope we can explore ways that will enable us to work more closely together."

"I had extremely high hopes for this retreat when we began this morning," concluded Chairman Scruggs, "and we have exceeded even those heights." 

"I had extremely high hopes for this retreat when we began, and we have exceeded even those heights."

Dennis Smith, 254-6300, for more information.

Maricopa Region Citizens Will Indicate Their Vision of the Future

What is your vision for the Maricopa County region?

A region that balances growth with preserving desert open spaces? A community that respects and celebrates the heritages of its residents? A Valley where transportation challenges have led to an effective transit system?

The Region 2025 Vision Committee will ask Valley residents to give an indication of the future they want for the area at the Region 2025 Vision Summit in early June. Announcements of the summit will appear in Valley newspapers and radio. In addition, interested citizens can ask MAG to notify them of the final details by mail.

A highlight of the summit will be an opportunity for the hundreds of

Region 2025 Vision


participants to select many of the future qualities of the area they prefer via computerized voting. The summit also will feature a national expert on regionalism.

The intensive Vision 2025 process is reaching out to every community in the Valley. Beginning last fall, the public-private partnership began to involve citizens of the region in forming a vision of what this region should be like in the year 2025.

Over the next two years, the visioning process will include:

- ◆ Formation of collaborative groups within local geographic areas and representative community organizations that will work with the Region 2025 Vision Committee and be a liaison with the local community.
- ◆ Development of a regional scan that summarizes existing conditions in the region and projects the future conditions if current trends continue.
- ◆ Through the collaborative groups, community involvement will be sought in discussions on a preferred regional future.
- ◆ Extensive interaction between the Vision Committee and the collaborative groups to draft and revise a vision for the region in 2025.
- ◆ Action on the vision document by the MAG Regional Council, local jurisdictions and community groups.

Co-chairs for the Region 2025 Vision Committee, which includes approximately 80 individuals from all spectrums of the region, are:

- ◆ **Diane McCarthy**, executive director of WESTMARC;
- ◆ **Richard Thomas**, a Scottsdale City Councilman who also chaired a citizen-based MAG Blue Ribbon Committee; and
- ◆ **George Young**, vice chairman of the South Mountain Village Planning Committee. 

Monique de los Rios, 254-6300, for more information.




Census 2000: It Will Mean Dollars to Local Governments

Each housing unit counted in Census 2000 is worth about \$10,000 in federal and state funds to local governments in the decade following the census.

That is a bottom-line reason why it is so important that the count be precise, said MAG Executive Director James Bourey, who attended a meeting of the Census Advisory Committee March 19 and 20 in Washington, D.C.

In February, the U.S. Census Bureau asked cities and towns to report on any changes that have taken place in their boundaries.

The Bureau also asked cities and towns to participate in an effort to update the address list that will be used to distribute Census questionnaires.

In March or April, the Census Bureau will mail out maps to request updates to census geography (census tracts, block groups, etc.). The Maricopa Association of Governments will be coordinating the update process through a subcommittee of the MAG Population Technical Advisory Committee. 

Harry Wolfe, 254-6300, for more information.

Desert Peaks Awards Nominations Recognize Outstanding Individuals, Governments

Nominations are due April 24 for the first annual Desert Peaks Awards, sponsored by the Maricopa Association of Governments.



The awards will recognize innovation and achievement in the region, providing a celebration of accomplishments as well as information about successes.

Awards in four categories will be presented by MAG at the Regional Council Annual Meeting June 24.

The honors will recognize:

- ◆ **Regional Excellence**, for the one individual in Maricopa County who has demonstrated commitment to the spirit of regionalism through promoting and facilitating cooperative regional actions;
- ◆ **Regional Partnership**, for the two or more local governments (MAG member agencies) that together have demonstrated a commitment to the concept of regionalism through cooperative efforts;
- ◆ **Public-Private Partnership**, for the group or project that has demonstrated a commitment to the concept of regionalism through a public-private partnership (including at least one MAG agency);
- ◆ **Distinguished Service**, for those individuals who have contributed time and effort to

the concept of regionalism, through program or committee involvement.

The Desert Peaks Awards nomination form indicates: "By working together, governments can produce impressive results and strengthen the region. These awards are intended to recognize individuals and local governments that have demonstrated a commitment to the concept of regionalism through their cooperative efforts: illustrating that jurisdictional boundaries are not barriers to good, sound decisions, and that joint projects often can provide better use of resources and service delivery to citizens."

Nomination forms are available from MAG, 302 North 1st Avenue, Suite 300, Phoenix, AZ 85003.

Rita Walton, 254-6300, for more information.

Graffiti continued from page 1

Chaired by Jana Sorensen, deputy county attorney, the group recommended prevention, enforcement, partnerships, and information in addition to passage of the ordinance.

Like the Phoenix ordinance, the MAG model ordinance defines graffiti, makes it illegal to sell implements of graffiti to children and requires retailers to store and display spray paint and broad-tipped markers in a non-accessible area. As part of the anti-graffiti campaign, Maricopa County Attorney Richard M. Romley's office also has developed a model anti-graffiti curriculum to emphasize to students the distinction between art and graffiti.

**PAINT
SECURE**
**in the knowledge
that you are helping to
keep our community graffiti-free**

Signs such as this are a positive way for retailers to communicate an anti-graffiti message.

Both strategies—education, matched with aggressive law enforcement efforts—are needed to effectively combat graffiti. "We need to get the spray paint away from these kids," Abmont said.

Carol Kratz, 254-6300, for more information.

Profile: Mayor Dallas “Rusty” Gant



Dallas “Rusty” Gant, Mayor of Wickenburg and member of the Regional Council Executive Committee

Though Mayor Rusty Gant’s stomping grounds in Wickenburg may seem far from downtown Phoenix, the two share common concerns, says the mayor, a member of the Maricopa Association of Governments Executive Committee.

“All the cities and towns in the Maricopa County region need an opportunity to come together and discuss issues that cross our boundaries,” he adds. “Even though Wickenburg is a somewhat remote area, we still need to know what is going on in the Valley, as well as other areas within Maricopa County, and its subsequent impact upon us.


MAG provides us with the forum for this communication.”

The mayor, who has served since 1992, has strong Wickenburg roots. President and general manager of Wickenburg’s Rancho de Los Caballeros, he grew up in Wickenburg. His father, Dallas Gant Sr., was one of the founders of the ranch/resort, which opened in 1948.

Mayor Gant was educated in his primary grades at the community’s “Little Red Schoolhouse”—Garcia School, preserved and in use as a bank facility. Mayor Gant graduated in 1969 from Arizona State University with a degree in

business administration and began working for Los Caballeros.

For the last six years, he has shared his devotion to his business with his commitment to retaining the quality of life that attracts visitors and residents to Wickenburg. That commitment has led to his active involvement in MAG.

“Whether the subject is transportation, air quality, emergency 9-1-1 systems or maintaining our quality of life, MAG is the place we can come together—small town and large city—and share our thoughts and concerns for a common good,” he says. 


Regional Freeway Program Fiscally Balanced, Maricopa Association of Governments Reports

The Valley freeway program is in fiscal balance for the seventh consecutive year.

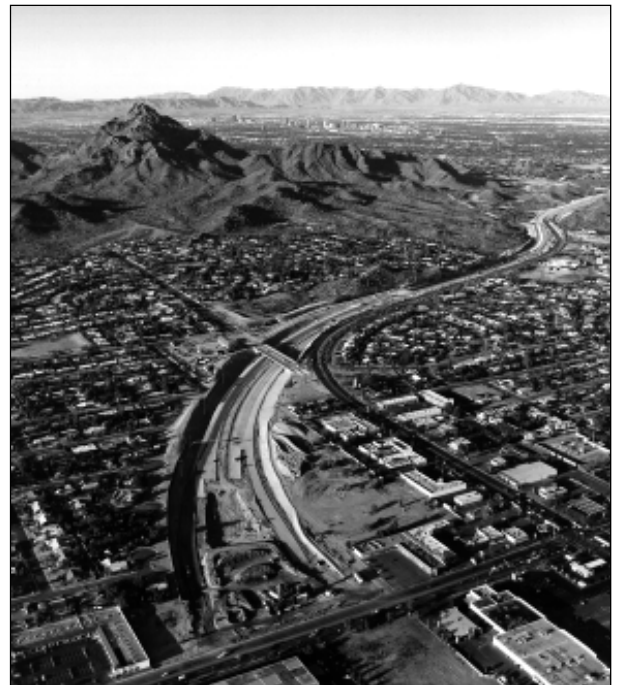
The program has achieved this accountability without any project being delayed or eliminated due to financial constraints.

Eric Anderson, manager of the Maricopa Association of Governments Fiscal Analysis Unit, gave that news in the 1998 Annual Report on the MAG Regional Freeway Program. He said that all elements of the freeway program are expected to be finished by 2014, with the exception of the South Mountain Corridor, which was being proposed as a tollroad.

Cost increases due to inflation and other factors were accommodated within the available funding because of sound forecasting of revenues and regular monitoring of project costs, Anderson said. He also noted that the financial participation of MAG member jurisdictions has allowed significant acceleration of key freeway projects in the region.

The purpose of the 1998 Annual Report is to provide the public with an independent review and evaluation of the fiscal integrity of the MAG Regional Freeway Program, including a careful analysis of planning and financial underpinnings. 

Eric Anderson, 470-1107, for more information.



Construction of the MAG Freeway System continues without delay.

Arizona Legislators Consider Air Quality Actions

Increased tax deductions for alternative fueled vehicles, roadside testing of diesel vehicles, incentives for installing clean-burning fireplaces and for repairing vehicles that fail the state emissions test—all these are among air pollution-fighting strategies currently on the table at the Arizona Legislature.

As “MAGAZine” went to press, Arizona legislators also were considering expanding the boundaries of the Valley’s pollution “nonattainment” area. People who live within “nonattainment” boundaries must observe no-burn days, use cleaner burning fuels and have their vehicles pass the auto emissions test.

“Air quality doesn’t seem to stop at the county line,” explained Governor Jane Hull at a press conference in February when she endorsed expanding the boundaries of the area.

Five key measures aimed at improving the Valley’s air quality are before the legislature. Many of the proposed efforts to clean up the Valley’s air were among a series of recommended actions adopted earlier this year by the Governor’s Air Quality Task Force.

Together with the Arizona Department of Environmental Quality, the Maricopa Association of Governments provided staff support to the task force.

Glendale Mayor Elaine Scruggs, chair of the MAG Regional Council, served as an active member of the task force and chaired its PM-10 Subcommittee. MAG’s Regional Council voted to support the Task Force’s recommendations, many of which echoed recommendations made by MAG in March, 1997.


Three different pollutants are of concern:

- Carbon monoxide;
- Ozone;
- PM-10, particulate matter.

The federal government has officially designated the metropolitan area within Maricopa County as a nonattainment area for these three pollutants.

As the air quality planning agency for the region, MAG is working cooperatively with state and local officials to prepare plans for attainment. The Valley remains out of compliance with air quality standards required by the federal Clean Air Act.

“We’ve made major headway in our efforts,” emphasized Lindy Bauer, the environmental manager for MAG, “but we have a long way to go.”

In fact, the Valley has experienced one of its best air quality winters, with no violations of carbon monoxide standards, compared to a total 232 in 1968. 

Lindy Bauer, 254-6300, for more information.

Input Sought on Social Services Problems and Needs

Public comments on regional social services and needs will be sought by the Maricopa Association of Governments Human Services Coordinating Committee at a hearing April 23.

The hearing will be held from 5:30 p.m. to 7 p.m. at Scottsdale City Hall Kiva, 3939 Civic Center Blvd., Scottsdale.

MAG is seeking the input to represent county-wide human services needs as it prepares an annual human services plan for the region. The plan will help guide resources to services across the Valley.

The public meeting will be televised and rebroadcast on city cable Channel 11, and MAG also will accept written or verbal comments between April 23 and May 31. Comments may be mailed or e-mailed to the Human Services Planning Committee.

Citizens with access to the Internet may also access the MAG home page,

<http://www.mag.maricopa.gov/>

to read about the human services planning and public comment process. MAG’s mailing address is 302 N. First Avenue, Suite 300, Phoenix, AZ 85003. The 24-hour public access voice mail is 452-5002, and

mag@mag.maricopa.gov is the e-mail address. 

Carol Kratz, 254-6300, for more information.



April	May	June
1st 10:00 AM, Region 2025 Vision Committee	6th 1:30 PM, Specifications and Details Subcommittee	3rd 10:00 AM, Region 2025 Vision Committee
1st 1:30 PM, Specifications and Details Subcommittee	7th 9:00 AM, Human Services Technical Committee	3rd 1:30 PM, Specifications and Details Subcommittee
8&9th 8:00 AM, Intermodal Planning Group	12th 1:30 PM, Street Committee	9th 1:30 PM, Street Committee
9th 9:00 AM, Design Guidelines Subcommittee	13th 12:00 PM, Management Committee	10th 12:00 PM, Management Committee
14th 12:00 PM, Design Guidelines Subcommittee	14th 1:30 PM, Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee	16th 1:00 PM, Regional Bicycle Task Force
14th 1:30 PM, Street Committee	19th 1:00 PM, Regional Bicycle Task Force	17th 10:00 AM, Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee
15th 9:00 AM, Open Spaces Task Force	20th 10:00 AM, Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee	17th 2:00 PM, Building Codes Committee
15th 12:00 PM, Management Committee	20th 2:00 PM, Building Codes Committee	18th 12:00 PM, Air Quality Policy Committee
16th 10:00 AM, Population Technical Advisory Committee	21st 10:00 AM, Youth Policy Advisory Committee	18th 2:00 PM, Human Services Coordinating Committee/Human Services Technical Committee Joint Meeting
16th 1:30 PM, Air Quality Technical Advisory Committee	21st 10:00 AM, Telecommunications Advisory Group	23rd 10:00 AM, Transportation Review Committee
21st 1:00 PM, Regional Bicycle Task Force	21st 12:00 PM, Air Quality Policy Committee	24th 5:00 PM, Regional Council Annual Meeting and Awards Dinner, Hyatt Regency, Phoenix
22nd 10:00 AM, Intelligent Transportation Systems Committee	21st 2:00 PM, Human Services Coordinating Committee	25th 10:00 AM, Youth Policy Advisory Committee
22nd 2:00 PM, Building Codes Committee	26th 10:00 AM, Transportation Review Committee	
23rd 10:00 AM, Youth Policy Advisory Committee	27th 5:00 PM, Regional Council	
23rd 12:00 PM, Air Quality Policy Committee	28th 10:00 AM, Population Technical Advisory Committee	
23rd 5:30 PM, Human Services Coordinating Committee Public Hearing, Scottsdale City Hall Kiva		
28th 10:00 AM, Transportation Review Committee	<p>The dates, times and locations of all meetings may change. Other committees not listed here may meet during these months. Please call 254-6300 for confirmation. All meetings, unless indicated otherwise will be held in the conference rooms located in the MAG offices on the second floor of the Norwest Bank Building, 302 N. 1st Avenue. Parking is available under the building. Please ask for parking validation.</p>	
29th 5:00 PM, Regional Council		
30th 8:00 AM, Electronic Commerce Workshop		



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